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Cactus & succulent books for children

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Cactus & Succulent Books for Children

Introduction

In the world of cacti & succulent (C & S) literature, books suitable for children to young adults have been a little-recognized resource. However, this is a buoyant part of the book market and one we aim to encourage because the young growers and readers of today are tomorrow's key players in our societies. Hopefully, some will become at least enthusiasts and perhaps experts. A smaller subset may even become plant biology researchers in our chosen field of interest. As far as we are aware, no one has ever systematically considered C & S books for young readers in a formal way, hence this article.

We have both been interested in collecting books on cacti and succulents (C & S) suitable for children through to young adults for many years. Additionally, DS (for the *CTCSS, Connecticut CSS*) has been selling such material for nearly 30 years. We have gathered together as much information as possible, based principally on our separate extensive book collections which we present here as a summary. Table 1 includes all the children's books that we are aware of. This will undoubtedly be incomplete but hopefully it is highly representative of the literature available. We consider printed only material and not information available solely in digital form, whether as discs or on websites.

As with adult literature, the range of books for young readers is extensive. Table 1 attempts to classify the books into traditional fiction and educational categories, but there are also other subcategories worthy of attention, such as activity books (including sticker and coloring books), poetry, humor and a single but stunning pop-up book. Some books feature in several categories, so a poetry book, for example, can also be educational. A number of books include glossaries relating primarily to the animals (and some plants) featured in the book.

A particular issue with this literature is that cacti and succulents are often not the main focus of a book: animals frequently take center stage with the succulents playing a subsidiary role in the background. Many general books on plants include succulents but only as part of a broad coverage. We have attempted to indicate this range of coverage in Table 1. In general, children's books are not available for an extended period of time and as such it is sometimes rather difficult to find them. The pop-up and Bernath's coloring books are notable exceptions.

The final slightly complex issue is that of reading age. The books in Table 1 cover the full range of

literature from books to be read to very young children by adults, through to complex texts that could form part of school curricula and that are actually reference works for advanced young readers or young adults. Often though, the reading age isn't definable, so we have indicated a range of reading age.

Statistics

Table 1 shows the 116 C & S books for children of which we are currently aware. We make no claims that this represents anywhere near a complete listing of these books ever published on our chosen subject but hopefully it is reasonably representative of what is available as either new or used from second hand book sources. Here are a few key points summarised from Table 1:

- By far the biggest category (82%) is educational, or non-fiction, which includes reference works which would be appropriate for use as part of a formal teaching curriculum. It must be emphasized that some of our categories are not mutually exclusive, since some books in other categories are also educational. So, for example, an activity book can of course also be educational.
- In contrast 18% are fiction and 15% of the books are based around poetry, with 10% activity and 10% coloring books. Again, the last two categories are often also educational.
- We're only aware of a single pop-up book (Anon., 1987; Fig. 1).
- Disappointingly, only two books are bi- or trilingual.
- In terms of dates of publication, by far the most productive decade was 1991–2000 when 39% of the titles were first published. Our oldest known book is by Werner (1954).
- The most productive place of publication is, unsurprisingly, the US which accounts for 82% of the titles, with the UK trailing well behind at 14%.

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- Africa, notably South Africa, has produced just two books on succulents, both on the baobab (Robinson, 2009; Taylor, 2004).
- The absence of German language titles is surprising considering the wide interest in succulents, especially cacti, in Germany. Mexico, with its high-level of succulent biodiversity, is also missing from the list of publishing countries. The same applies to the whole of South America.
- The only other countries represented in Table 1 are Spain (2 books) and New Zealand (a single title).

Top Ten Favorites

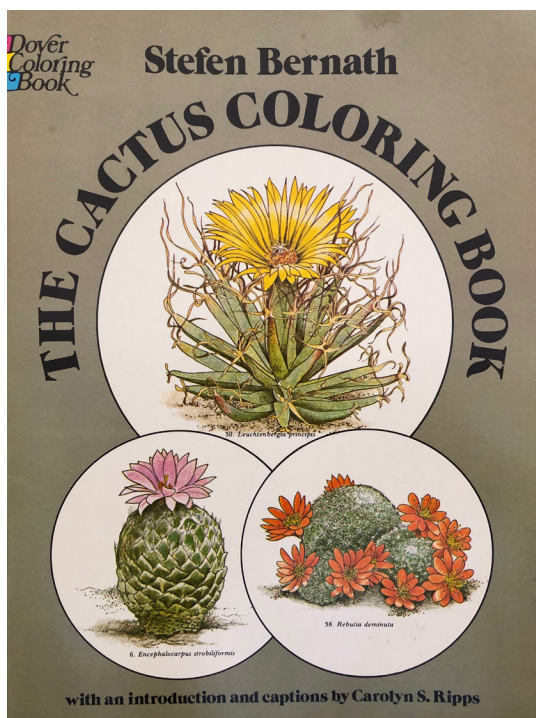
We are highlighting our top 10 books from our longer favorites list. These range from simple activity books through fiction to full reference works that could form part of school curricula. We begin with activity books. Top of the list is the National Geographic (Anon., 1987) *Creatures of the desert world*: the only cactus-focused pop-up book we know. As with many cactus and succulent books, animals take center stage but here the cacti are also highly prominent. Unfortunately, the cover — featuring a hare being

chased by a fox — is devoid of cacti and so does not do justice to the cactus content. Each of six double-page spreads is a pop-up 3D view of cacti and animals interacting in habitat (Fig. 1) and is based on amazing paper technology. It's truly an activity book because not only does the book need to be opened and closed carefully to reveal the 3D scenes but there are also several tabs to be pulled or pushed revealing hidden animals. So, bat wings flap on opening as the animals feed on saguaro flowers; a hare leaps behind a prickly pear; a snake rattles its tail; and a kestrel flies behind a saguaro. There are two paragraphs of text accompanying each double-page spread. Be warned though, this book could easily be damaged by over enthusiastic fingers, so reading this book to a beginner ought to be closely supervised by an adult! This book has been an all-time best seller for DS (CTCSS) with more than 100 copies sold over a 30-year period. We even had one arachnophobe who paid for the book but then insisted that we remove the tarantula from it!

Several children's books are either sticker or coloring books. The most popular and second-best seller is Bernath's (1981) *The cactus coloring book* (Fig. 2) which is devoted to cacti. It has soft card covers of which the



1. Double-page spread from the pop-up book *Creatures of the desert world* (Anon., 1987).

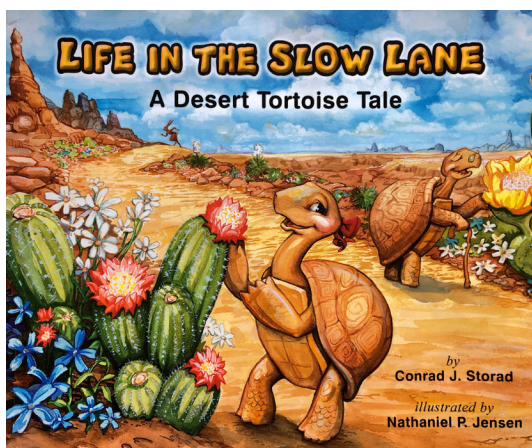


2. A very popular coloring book (Bernath, 1981).

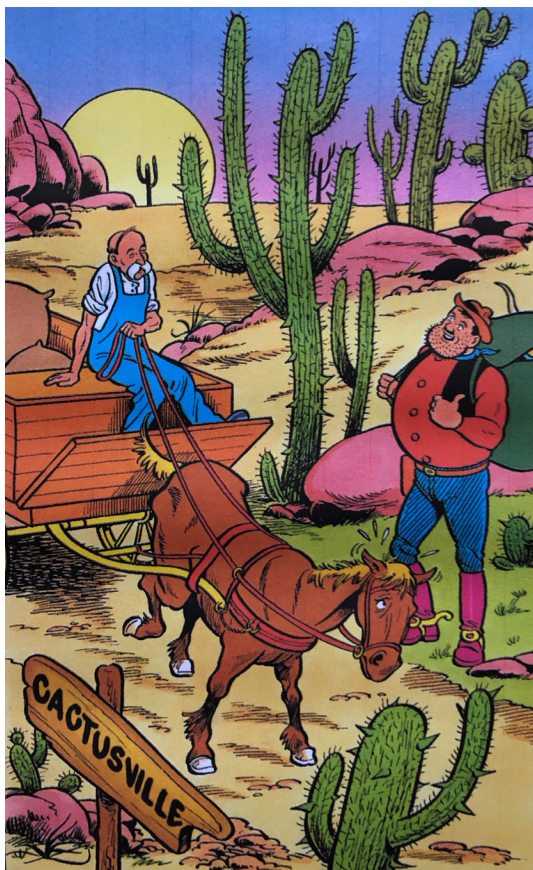
rear cover forms a fold-out flap. A significant, nearly unique, and highly popular feature is that the inside front cover and both sides of the rear cover have colored versions of the 45 drawings for the budding artist to use as models. Forty-five species from 40 genera — from both North and South America — are included as line drawings with Latin and common names. Each painting is accompanied by an extended caption or short paragraph describing the species and its cultivation requirements. The introduction is by Carolyn Ripps (former director of the *New York CSS*), who also contributed the captions. Finally, there is an index of scientific names, so the book also has significant educational merits. The line drawings are attractive and accurate representations of the plants and for artistic merit our favorite is *Astrophytum capricorne* (Goat's horn cactus).

Fiction is obviously a major category of children's books. Storad & Jensen's (2005) *Life in the slow lane* — *A desert tortoise tale* is an example of many of the books surveyed here, where the animals play a prominent role in the narrative and the cacti are demoted to the background. It's a poem aimed at beginner readers:

"Come closer, dear Shelley,
I'll tell you a tale
Of our life in the desert
With cactus and quail."

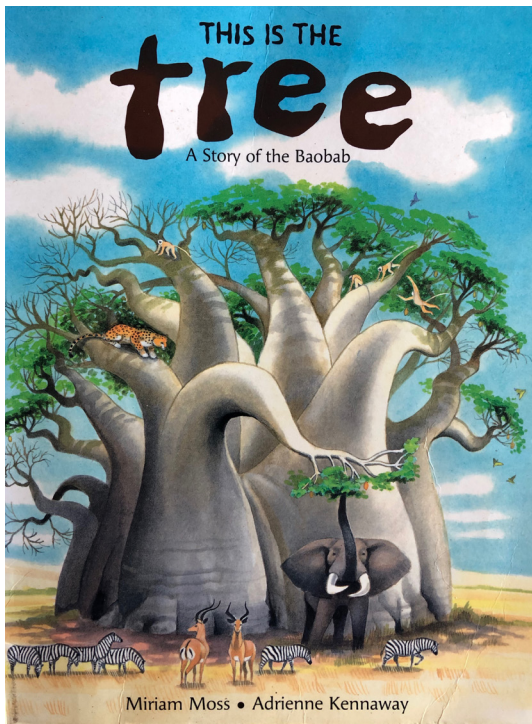


3. Ninja Turtle lookalikes! (Storad & Jensen, 2005).



4. A page from *Desperate Dan and the cactusman* (Anon., 1993).

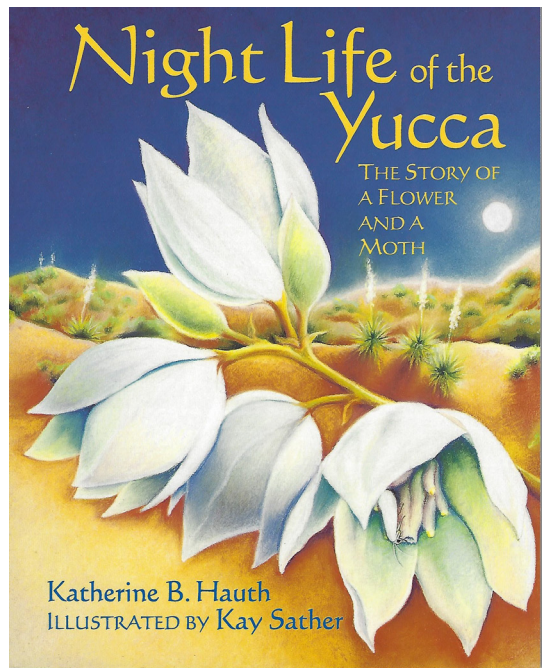
The tortoises on the cover (Fig. 3) with their nods to Ninja Turtles, have resulted in this being a very popular title. The book ends with two pages of information on the desert tortoise, including its Latin name, followed by a short glossary, none of which is relevant to succulents.



5. One of four children's books on the baobab (Moss & Kennaway, 2000).

A second story book is aimed at older readers: Anon. (1993, Ladybird) *Desperate Dan and the cactus-man*. Here, Dan disrupts his peaceful holiday in the desert to save his home town of Cactusville (Fig. 4) from the pranks of the crafty Abominable Cactusman. During the ensuing chase, Dan's Aunt Aggie's cow pie is ruined, which sends Dan into a frenzy. The story is very short, taking an adult reader a mere 5 minutes or so to complete. CCW was delighted to present Gordon Rowley with a copy of this book because *Cactusville* was the name of his house in Reading, England. Several other books feature poetry as opposed to story lines, such as the Jernigan books.

Of the educational books, Table 1 includes four books devoted to the African baobab (*Adansonia digitata*). Of these, Moss & Kennaway's (2001) *This is the tree – A story of the baobab* (Fig. 5) provides the most attractive cover. The life cycle of the plant is described via a short narrative, this time aimed at beginner readers. The animals associated with baobabs are varied and beautifully illustrated. Most significant are elephants that feed on the bark and fruit, key sources of minerals and water for these giants of the African savannah. Bushbabies feed on the flowers, simultaneously acting as pollinators. Although this is a work of fiction, like many other books covered here, it's also educational, including a double-page spread

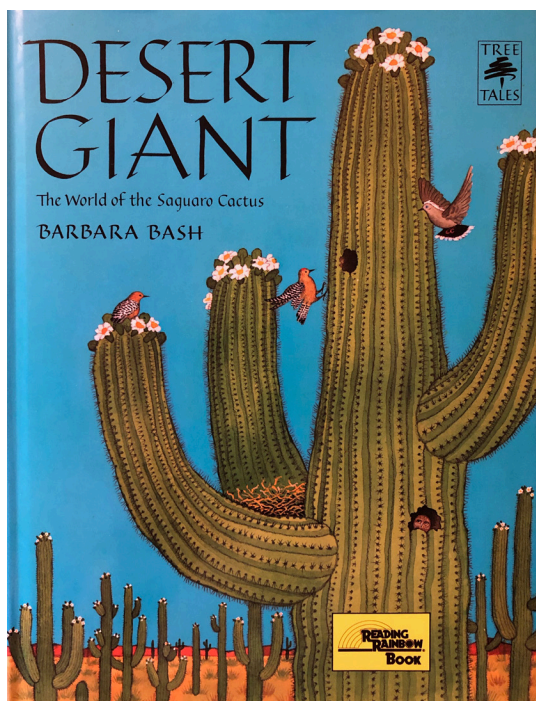


6. The only title and cover featuring yuccas (Hauth & Sather, 1996).

describing all aspects of the baobab's habitat, name, structure and uses by animals and humans.

Another educational book, Hauth & Sather's (1996) *Night life of the Yucca: The story of a flower and a moth* (Fig. 6) features a *Yucca* in flower on a beautifully presented cover. The book is extremely informative and written with as little technical language as possible. The remaining illustrations are of a high standard, informative and follow the narrative closely. The only disappointing aspect is that all of the inside illustrations are in half tone with no color. This is apparently a nod to the "action" taking place at night with the *Yucca* moth's nocturnal visit. The last two pages have more educational and somewhat technical details on the plant, flower, moth and their relationships.

Bash (1989) *Desert giant — The world of the saguaro cactus* (Fig. 7) is one of several books that focus on the saguaro and the animals that make their homes amongst its branches. It describes the habitat in the Sonoran Desert. The Gila woodpecker makes its nest in the stem which later becomes a hollowed-out saguaro 'boot'. Pollination of the flowers by night-visiting bats and day-visiting white-winged doves is beautifully illustrated. The harvest of saguaro fruit by Tohono O'odham Indians is described, together with the production of jams, candies, syrups and wine from the juicy red pulp. The later stages in the saguaro's life cycle are covered, from ageing through death

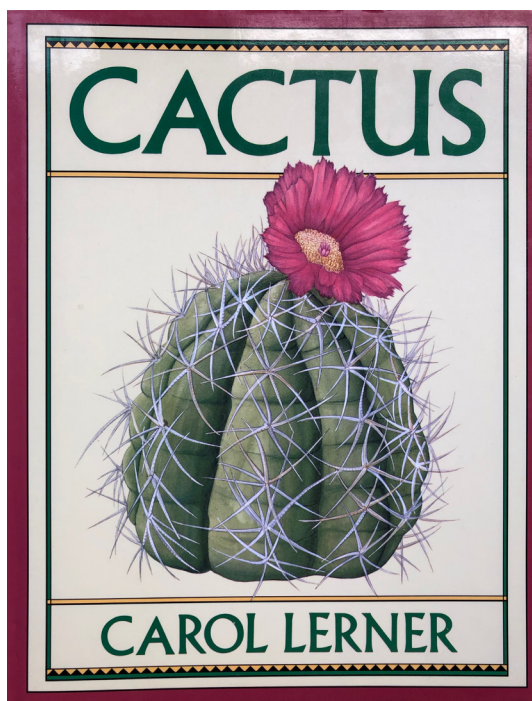


7. Saguaros feature prominently on many titles (Bash, 1989).

and decay to regeneration via seed and seedlings. The talent of the author and artist Barbara Bash shines through and brings the saguaro and its intimate relationships with a range of animals to life via an engaging narrative.

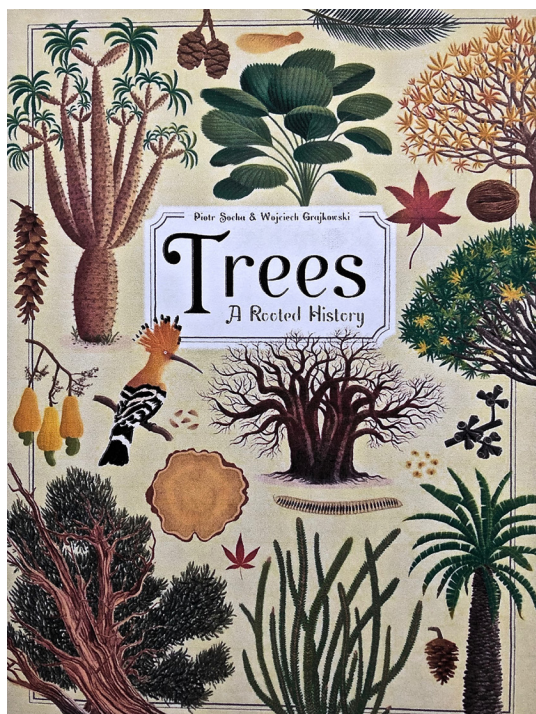
Cactus by Lerner (1992) is one of only a very few books that deals with cacti in which animals receive only cursory attention as pollinators, accompanied by a single sketch of a bat. This book is aimed at 12–14 year-olds and could be considered to be a reference book (Fig. 8). Its four chapters are self-explanatory: *The cactus stem*, *The cactus family*, *How the cactus plant works*, and *Where the cactus lives*. It includes 7 full-page attractive and informative color illustrations based on watercolor paintings, together with several other small half tone illustrations, all of high quality. Latin names are used alongside some common names, but technical terms are kept to an essential minimum. The text is accurate and informative but is now slightly dated: for example, there are now four and not three subfamilies of the cactus family (Cactaceae). The book ends with a glossary and an index, the latter being a rare feature of children's books.

Socha & Grajkowski's *The book of trees* (2018) was first published in Polish as *Drzewa* [Trees] in 2018, subsequently translated into English and published in London under this title. A year later the American



8. An example of many educational titles (Lerner, 1992).

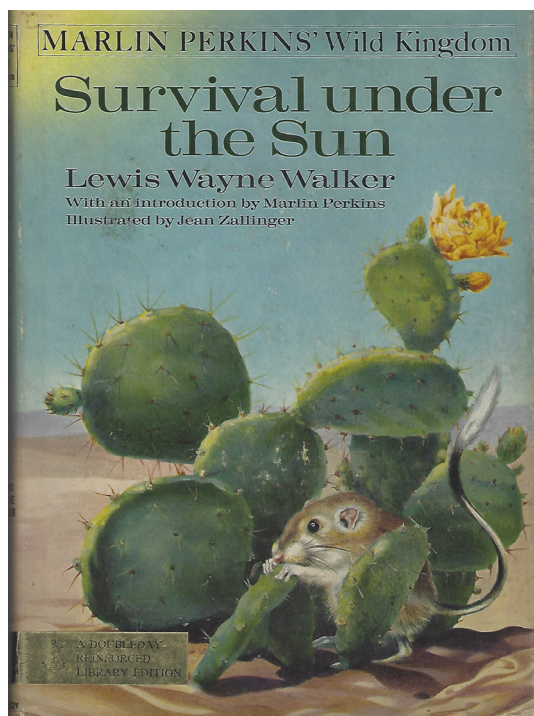
edition appeared as *Trees — A rooted history* but with a completely new cover featuring 5 succulents (Fig. 9). A unique feature for a child's book is its small folio format (14.75 × 11 inches; 37.6 × 27.8 cm). Its coverage is very wide ranging, dealing with basic tree facts such as structure, growth through the seasons, seed dispersal, classification, history, uses in human culture and much more. It explores the roles trees play in ecosystems, their evolution (illustrated in a biological family tree) and human family trees (genealogy). It includes trees in art forms (bonsai, topiary, wooden masks), wooden transport, musical instruments, buildings, etc. and ends with a forward look at trees into the future. Succulents are a significant part of the coverage. Tree *Opuntia*, saguaro, *Aloe*, Joshua tree and *Agave* feature in a double-page spread on *When is a tree not a tree?* Two double-page spreads on *Endemic species* include many succulents such as dragon trees, ocotillo, the boojum tree, pachypodiums and the Socotran succulent fig [*Dorstenia gigas*]. Another double-page spread illustrates 9 baobabs. Text and illustrations are superb and our only regret is that an appendix with Latin plant names is missing. This is the most advanced children's book we consider here for a reading age of 10–14 years, although the publishers believe that much younger children could appreciate with this book. This was the UK *Sunday Times* Children's Book



9. Despite its title, a cover design rich in succulent images (Socha & Grajkowski, 2019).

of the Week in 2018 when the reviewer said that this book was “Beautiful ... There is humour in the images, and compelling detail and elegant composition”. This book could be considered as a major educational reference source on trees for children.

The final book mentioned here, Walker’s (1971) *Survival under the sun* (Fig. 10), could be considered a textbook and is based on an original story developed for an episode of the US television series *Marlin Perkins’ Wild Kingdom*. With 10 chapters covering topics including the land, plants, snakes, reptiles, birds, mammals and the balanced community, the book comprehensively introduces the reader to the south-western desert. A detailed index lets the reader check out specific topics and the wonderful watercolor illustrations give life to the narrative. It is certainly a great



10. One of the oldest titles in the education category (Walker, 1971).

addition to the library and could be reissued with few alterations necessary to update the text.

End note

If anyone reading this article is aware of children’s books missing from Table 1, we would be grateful for any additional information, provided in the form used in Table 1 if at all possible. Thank you.

Acknowledgements

Both of our wives, Marjorie Thorburn and Barbara Schultz, have read and commented on earlier drafts.

Notes for Table 1: **A** = activity (quizzes, crosswords, join the dots, stickers, etc., but not predominantly coloring). **AC** = Alphabet or Counting books. **An** = predominantly featuring animals, people, scenery, or other topics with C & S as a small component. **BT** = bilingual or trilingual. **C** = coloring book. **Ca** = cacti & succulents are the main focus, but other topics also covered. **D** = includes a CD ROM. **E** = educational: **BR** = Beginning reading, **WH** = with help reading, **OYO** = reading “on your own” (12–14 year-olds and young adults). **F** = fictional. **H** = includes humor and/or cartoon. **M** = includes musical score. **PI** = plants with some C & S. **P** = poetry. **Pi** = picture book (virtually no text). **Pu** = pop-up. **R** = includes cookery recipes.

Table 1. Cactus & Succulent Books for Children

Authors	Date	Title	Place of Publication	Notes
Anon. (National Geographic)	1987	Creatures of the desert world	Los Angeles, CA	A, E (WH), Pu
Anon. (Ladybird Books)	1993	Desperate Dan and the cactusman	Loughborough, UK	F (WH/OYO), H
Anon.	2001	Deserts	London	A, D, E (OYO), Pi
Anon.	2011	Kid's Kew. A children's guide	Kew, UK	A, E (OYO), Pi
Arbel, I.	2004	Amazing plants coloring book	Mineola, NY	C, E (BR/WH), Pi
Arnold, C.	2015	A day and night in the desert	Bloomington, MN	E (BR/WH)
Arnosky, J.	2002	Watching desert wildlife	USA	An, E(WH)
Arnosky, J.	2005	Coyote raid in cactus canyon	NYC, NY	Ca, E (BR/WH)
Barlowe, D.	2000	Learning about desert plants book	Mineola, NY	A, An, E (BR)
Barlowe, D.	2002	The Sonoran Desert by day and night coloring	Mineola, NY	An, C, E (BR/WH)
Bash, B.	1989	Tree of life. The world of the African baobab	San Francisco, CA, etc.	E (WH)
Bash, B.	1989	Desert giant. The world of the saguaro cactus	San Francisco, CA, etc.	E (WH)
Baylor, B. & Baylor, P.	1981	Desert voices	NYC, NY	E (BR/WH), P
Baylor, B. & Parnall, P.	1987	The desert is theirs	Madrid, Spain	An, E (BR)
Benjamin, C.	1999	Footprints in the sand	USA	E (BR), Pi
Berquist, P. & Berquist, S.	1997	Saguaro cactus (habitats)	Danbury, CT	E (WH)
Bernath, S.	1981	The cactus coloring book	Mineola, NY, Toronto, Canada and London	C, E (BR/WH)
Bloomfield, G.A.	2007	The Grand Canyon National Park coloring book	La Jolla, CA	C, E (BR/WH)
Canizares, S.	1998	Cactus names	NYC, NY & London	E (BR), Pi
Canizares, S. & Chesson, B.	1998	Colors in the desert	NYC, NY & London	E (BR), Pi, Pi
Catchpole, C. & McIntyre, B.	1983	The living world deserts	London	E (OYO), Pi
Ciraola, S.	2014	Hug me	London, USA	E (BR), F
Cobb, V.	1989	This place is dry	NYC, NY	E (BR/WH)
Crary, L.	2010	Become an expert. Saguaro cacti and Elf owls	USA	E (BR/WH)
Dewey, J.O.	1991	A night and day in the desert	Boston, MA, etc	An, E (OYO), F
Dunphy, M. & Coe, A.	1995	Here is the southwestern desert	Berkeley, CA	E (WH), P, Pi
Fell, D.	2000	Let's investigate cacti	Mankato, MN	E (WH)
Fowler, A.	2001	Cactuses (Rookie Reader)	USA	E (BR/WH)
Fredericks, A.D.	2017	I am the desert	Tucson, AZ	E (BR/WH), Pi
Fredericks, A.D. & DiRubbio, J.	2003	Around one cactus. Owls, bats and leaping rats	Nevada City, CA	E (WH), P
Fredericks, A.D. & Spengler, K.J.	2011	Desert night. Desert day	Tucson, AZ	An, E (BR), P
Ganerj, A. & Pickering, J.	1991	Plants	Loughborough, UK & Auburn, ME	E (WH/OYO), Pi
Goodrich, C.	2019	Nobody hugs a cactus	NYC, NY	F (BR/WH), Pi
Gowan, B. & Van Frankenhuyzen, G.	2012	D is for desert: A world of deserts alphabet	Ann Arbor, MI	AC, An, E (WH?), P
Gibbons, G.	1996	Deserts	NYC, NY	Ca, E (WH)
Green, J.	1997	Southwest desert plants. Stained glass coloring book	Mineola, NY	C, Pi
Green, J.	2003	A saguaro cactus	NYC, NY	Ca, E (WH)
Griffin-King, J. & Robinson, B.H.	1969	Indoor gardening	Loughborough, UK	E (OYO), Pi
Guiberson, B.Z. & Lloyd, M.	1991	Cactus hotel	NYC, NY	E (WH), F
Harrison, P.	1978	Great and small	London, etc.	An, E (BR), Pi
Hansen, K.	2018	Prickly	Scotts Valley, CA	E, F, Pi
Hatch, T. & Pollard, B.	1999	Grandad went to Africa	Pukekohe, New Zealand	An, P (OYO)
Hauth, K.B. & Sather, K.	1996	Night life of the Yucca: The story of a flower and a moth	Boulder, CO	E (BR/OYO), F, P
Hawthorne, L.	2019	The night flower	Somerville, MA	E (BR/WH), P
Helman, A.	2011	Southwest colors	Tucson, AZ	E (BR/WH)
Holmes, A. & Lerner, C.	1983	The 100-year-old cactus	NYC, NY	Ca, E (BR/WH), F
Jablonsky, A.	1994	101 questions about desert life	Tucson, AZ	An, E (WH)
Jeanes, C. & Stacey, J.	1962	Desert beauty: The story of cacti	Chicago, IL	Ca, E (OYO)
Jernigan, G.	1988	One green mesquite tree	Tucson, AZ	AC, E (BR/WH), Pi
Jernigan, G.	1994	Sonoran seasons. A year in the desert	Tucson, AZ	E (BR/WH), Pi
Jernigan, G. & Jernigan, E.W.	1989	Agave blooms just once	Tucson, AZ	AC, An, E (BR), P
Kalman, B. & MacAulay, K.	2005	Desert food chains	NYC, NY, etc.	An, E (OYO)
Kennedy, P.E.	1998	Fun with desert plants stencils	Mineola, NY	A, C, Pi
Klots, A. & Klots, E.	1967	The community of living things in the desert	Mankato, MN	An, E (OYO)
Kopp, M.	2018	What do you find on a saguaro cactus?	USA, Canada, UK	An, E(BR/WH)
Krebs, K. & Juliano, P.	2017	Desert life of the southwest activity book	Cambridge, MN	A, An, C, E (OYO)
Latchana Kenney, K.	2019	Healing plants (Plant Power)	Minneapolis, MN	A, E (BR/WH), Pi; (includes useful teaching notes)
Leopold, A.S.	1961	The desert	Alexandria, VA	An, E (OYO), Pi
Lerner, C.	1992	Cactus	NYC, NY	E (OYO)
Lewington, S.	2001	Eden. Planting a paradise	Truro, UK	E (OYO), Pi
Lodé, K. & Lodé J.	2016	Les aventures de Joelito. Las aventuras de Joelito. The adventures of Joelito.	Barcelona, Spain	A (BR), BT, F

Authors	Date	Title	Place of Publication	Notes
Madgwick, W.	1991	Cacti and other succulents. Greenworld	Dorking, UK	E (OYO)
Marchard, P. & Brown, C.	1994	What good is a cactus?	Niwot, CO	F (WH), PI
Marsh, T.J., Ward, J. & Spengler, K.J.	1998	Way out in the desert	Flagstaff, AZ	An, E (BR), P, M
Maurer, T.N.	2011	What's in a cactus?	Vero Beach, FL	E (BR), PI
Mike, J.M. & Mike, S.A.	1990	Desert seasons	Tucson, AZ	An, F (WH), PI
Miller, M.	1982	Saguaro. The desert flower book	Boulder, CO	E
Miller, M. & Nelson, C.	1996	Desert critters. Plants and animals of the southwest	Boulder, CO	A, An, E (BR/WH)
Morris, N.	1996	Deserts	NYC, NY	An, E (BR/WH)
Moss, M. & Kennaway, A.	2000	This is the tree. A story of the baobab	London	An, E (WH), F, P
Munro, R.	2010	Desert days, desert nights	Houston, TX	An, E (BR/WH)
Overbeck, C.	1982	Cactus	Minneapolis, MN	E (OYO)
Pallotta, J.	1994	The desert alphabet book	Watertown, MN	An, E (BR/WH)
Petrucchio, S.	1997	Desert life sticker book	Mineola, NY	A, An, E (BR)
Philabaum, D.M.	1992	Desert buddies coloring book	Tucson, AZ	C, E (BR/WH)
Porfiri, G.	2012	Jump!	Tucson, AZ	E (BR/WH), F
Posell, E.	1982	Deserts: New true book	Chicago, IL	An, E (BR/WH)
Profiri, C.	2013	Guess who's in the desert?	Tucson, AZ	An, E (BR), P, PI
Rabe, T., Ruiz, A. & Mathieu, J.	2011	Why oh why are deserts dry?	NYC, NY	E (WH), P
Reading, S.	1990	Desert plants	NYC, NY, etc.	E (OYO)
Robinson, C.	2009	Baby baobab	Auckland Park, [Johannesburg], South Africa	E (WH), F, P (cover & illustrations highly stylized)
Schuh, M.C.	2019	Prickly plants (Plant Power)	Minneapolis, MN	A, Ca, E (BR/WH); (includes useful teaching notes)
Schulz, C.	1986	Snoopy, spike and the cat next door	Freemont, CA	An, F (BR/WH)
Schulz, C.	1998	Travels with my cactus	NYC, NY	F (BR)
Silver, D.M. & Wynne, P.J.	1995	One small square cactus desert	NYC, NY, etc.	A, E (OYO)
Smithy, W.K.	1990	American deserts: The beauty of America's natural habitat	NYC, NY	An, E (OYO)
Socha, P. & Grajkowski, W.	2018	The book of trees (translated from Polish 2018 ed. Drzewa)	London	E (OYO), PI (folio format; cover different to US ed.)
Socha, P. & Grajkowski, W.	2019	Trees. A rooted history (translated from Polish 2018 ed.)	NYC, NY	E (OYO), PI (folio format; cover different to UK ed.)
Soffer, R.	1994	North American desert life coloring book	NYC, NY	A, An, C, E (BR/WH)
Spencer, G.	1998	The living desert – Let's take a trip	USA	An, E (WH)
Spengler, K.	2001	Wild desert coloring book	Flagstaff, AZ	C, E (BR)
Steiner, B.A. & Himler, R.	1996	Desert trip	San Francisco, CA	An, F (OYO)
Storad, C.J.	1994	Saguaro cactus	Minneapolis, MN	E (WH)
Storad, C.J.	1997	The Sonoran Desert A to Z coloring book	Phoenix, AZ	AC, C, E (BR/WH)
Storad, C.J.	1999-2009	Lizards for lunch	Tempe, AZ	E, (BR), PI, P
Storad, C.J.	2006	Desert night shift: A pack rat story	Tempe, AZ	E (BR/WH), F, P
Storad, C.J. & Jensen, N.P.	2005(–2008)	Life in the slow lane. A desert tortoise tale	Fallbrook, CA	An, E (WH), PI, P
Sutton, F., Doremus, R. & Wolf, D.D.	1965	The how and why wonder book of deserts	NYC, NY	E (OYO)
Tarsky, S., Corbett, G. & Giles, W.	1980	The prickly plant book	London	A, E (OYO)
Taylor, B.	1997	Inside guides. Incredible plants	London, etc.	E (OYO), PI
Taylor, J.	2004	A baobab is big & other verses from Africa	Cape Town, South Africa	An, E (WH), P, PI
Tweit, S.J.	1995	Meet the wild southwest	Portland, OR	An, E (OYO)
Wadsworth, G.	1997	Desert discoveries	Watertown, MA	An, E (BR/WH)
Walker, L.W.	1971	Survival under the sun	Garden City, NY	E (OYO)
Wallace, M.D.	1996	America's deserts. Guide to plants and animals	Golden, CO	E (OYO)
Ward, J. & Rangner, M.K.	2003	The seed and the giant cactus	Flagstaff, AZ	E (BR), P
Welles, P.	1991	Meet the desert southwest	Tucson, AZ	An, E (OYO)
Werner, J.	1954	Walt Disney's living desert. A true-life adventure	London	E (OYO), F
Wilkes, A. & Dennis, P.	1980	Deserts	London	An, E (OYO)
Williamson, B.	2020	Cactus and flower: A book about life cycles	NYC, NY	E (BR), PI
Willoughby, J. & Willoughby, S.	1993	Cactus country. A friendly introduction to cacti of the southwest deserts	Phoenix, AZ	Ca, E (OYO), H, R (also includes succulents other than cacti)
Wojahn, R.B. & Wojahn, D.	2009	A desert food chain: A who-eats-who-what adventure in North America	Minneapolis, MN	E (OYO)
Wright-Frierson, V.	2002	A desert scrapbook. Dawn to dusk in the Sonoran Desert	NYC, NY	E (OYO), F
Young, S. & Duffek, K.	2007	The Little Saguaro. El sahuarito	Tucson, AZ	BT, E (BR/WH), P
Zoehfeld, K.W. & Mirocha, P.	1997	Cactus Café. A story of the Sonoran Desert	Norwalk, CT	E (WH), F